

EXHIBIT 20

3: J Gen Virol. 2005 Oct;86(Pt 10):2769-80.

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The alpha(v)beta6 integrin receptor for Foot-and-mouth disease virus is expressed constitutively on the epithelial cells targeted in cattle.

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Field strains of Foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) use a number of alpha(v)-integrins as receptors to initiate infection on cultured cells, and integrins are believed to be the receptors used to target epithelial cells in animals. In this study, immunofluorescence confocal microscopy and real-time RT-PCR were used to investigate expression of two of the integrin receptors of FMDV, alpha(v)beta6 and alpha(v)beta3, within various epithelia targeted by this virus in cattle. These studies show that alpha(v)beta6 is expressed constitutively on the surfaces of epithelial cells at sites where infectious lesions occur during a natural infection, but not at sites where lesions are not normally formed. Expression of alpha(v)beta6 protein at these sites showed a good correlation with the relative abundance of beta6 mRNA. In contrast, alpha(v)beta3 protein was only detected at low levels on the vasculature and not on the epithelial cells of any of the tissues investigated. Together, these data suggest that in cattle, alpha(v)beta6, rather than alpha(v)beta3, serves as the major receptor that determines the tropism of FMDV for the epithelia normally targeted by this virus.

PMID: 16186231 [PubMed - in process]

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Somatostatin receptors in primary human breast cancer: quantitative analysis of mRNA for subtypes 1–5 and correlation with receptor protein expression and tumor pathology.

Kumar U, Grigorakis SI, Watt HL, Sasi R, Snell L, Watson P, Chaudhari S.

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Somatostatin receptors (SSTRs) have been identified in most hormone-producing tumors as well as in breast cancer. In the present study, we determined SSTR1-5 expression in primary ductal NOS breast tumors through semi-quantitative RT-PCR and immunocytochemistry. The results from the analysis of 98 samples were correlated with several key histological markers and receptor expression. All five SSTR subtypes are variably expressed at the mRNA level in breast tumors with 91% of samples showing SSTR1, 98% SSTR2, 96% SSTR3, 76% SSTR4, and 54% SSTR5. SSTR1-5 are localized to both tumor cells and the surrounding peritumoral regions as detected by immunocytochemistry. Levels of SSTR mRNA, when corrected for beta-actin levels, were highest for SSTR3 followed by SSTR1, SSTR2, SSTR5, and SSTR4. Furthermore, there was good correlation between mRNA and protein expression with 84% for SSTR1, 79% for SSTR2, 89% for SSTR3, 68% for SSTR4, 68% for SSTR5, and 78% for all five receptors. SSTR1, 2 and 4 were correlated with ER levels whereas SSTR2 showed an additional correlation with PR levels. These correlations were independent of patient age and histological grade. Moreover, using immunocytochemistry, blood vessels exhibited receptor-specific localization for SSTR2 and SSTR5. Our results indicate significant correlations between mRNA and protein expression along with receptor-specific correlations with histological markers as well as ER and PR levels. Differential distribution of SSTR subtypes in tumors and receptor-specific expression in vascular structures may be considered as a novel diagnosis for breast tumors with receptor subtype agonists.

Publication Types:

- Evaluation Studies

PMID: 15986128 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Human chorionic gonadotrophin beta expression in malignant Barrett's oesophagus.

Couvelard A, Paraf F, Vidaud D, Dubois S, Vidaud M, Flejou JF, Degott C.

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BACKGROUND: Human chorionic gonadotrophin beta (hCGbeta) is expressed in several non-trophoblastic tumours, and this is usually associated with aggressive behaviour. Little is known about hCGbeta expression in Barrett's adenocarcinoma. **MATERIALS AND METHODS:** We determined the hCGbeta profile in a large series of surgically resected Barrett's adenocarcinoma (a) at mRNA level using real-time quantitative reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction analysis and (b) at protein level using immunohistochemistry with a polyclonal antibody and with a monoclonal antibody specific for free hCGbeta. We then sought links between the hCGbeta protein expression pattern and clinical and pathological parameters, including patient outcome as well as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) expression. **RESULTS:** hCGbeta protein expression was observed in 43 of 76 (57%) Barrett's adenocarcinomas. We showed a strong correlation between hCGbeta protein abundance and CGB mRNA level. We observed a statistical link between hCGbeta protein expression and infiltrative tumour type ($P=0.023$), perineural neoplastic invasion ($P=0.007$) and VEGF protein expression ($P=0.016$). hCGbeta expression tended to be associated with a poor outcome (16% versus 36% survival 8 years after resection). **CONCLUSION:** Expression of hCGbeta correlates with specific infiltrative characteristics and is associated with higher VEGF expression. Both molecules may play a co-ordinated role in the development of Barrett's adenocarcinomas.

PMID: 15309632 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Estrogen regulation of the cytochrome P450 3A subfamily in humans.

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This study examines the possible role of estrogen in regulating the expression of the human CYP3A subfamily: CYP3A4, CYP3A5, CYP3A7, and CYP3A43. To accomplish this goal, mRNA was quantified from human livers and endometrial samples, and total CYP3A protein levels were evaluated by Western immunoblot analysis of the liver samples. The human endometrial samples were from premenopausal and postmenopausal women. The premenopausal endometrium was either in the proliferative or secretory phase, whereas for the postmenopausal endometrium samples, the women had been treated with either a placebo or estropipate, an estrogen substitute. After analyses, CYP3A4 mRNA was shown to have lower hepatic expression in females than in males. In the endometrium, CYP3A4 and CYP3A43 are down-regulated by estrogen, whereas CYP3A5 is expressed at higher levels during the secretory phase. CYP3A7 was not detected in the endometrium. In addition, the CYP3A subfamily showed increased mRNA expression in the liver as age increased. The expression levels of total CYP3A protein and total CYP3A mRNA showed good correlation. Despite apparent regulation of CYP3A4 mRNA expression by estrogen, the effects of estrogen may be overshadowed by additional regulators of gene expression.

PMID: 15282264 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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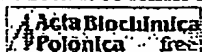
Discordant regulation of granzyme H and granzyme B expression in human lymphocytes.

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We analyzed the expression of granzyme H in human blood leukocytes, using a novel monoclonal antibody raised against recombinant granzyme H. 33-kDa granzyme H was easily detected in unfractionated peripheral blood mononuclear cells, due to its high constitutive expression in CD3(-)CD56(+) natural killer (NK) cells, whereas granzyme B was less abundant. The NK lymphoma cell lines, YT and Lopez, also expressed high granzyme H levels. Unstimulated CD4(+) and particularly CD8(+) T cells expressed far lower levels of granzyme H than NK cells, and various agents that classically induce T cell activation, proliferation, and enhanced granzyme B expression failed to induce granzyme H expression in T cells. Also, granzyme H was not detected in NK T cells, monocytes, or neutrophils. There was a good correlation between mRNA and protein expression in cells that synthesize both granzymes B and H, suggesting that *gzmH* gene transcription is regulated similarly to *gzmB*. Overall, our data indicate that although the *gzmB* and *gzmH* genes are tightly linked, expression of the proteins is quite discordant in T and NK cells. The finding that granzyme H is frequently more abundant than granzyme B in NK cells is consistent with a role for granzyme H in complementing the pro-apoptotic function of granzyme B in human NK cells.

PMID: 15069086 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



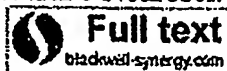
Expression level of Ubc9 protein in rat tissues.

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Ubc9 is a homologue of the E2 ubiquitin conjugating enzyme and participates in the covalent linking of SUMO-1 molecule to the target protein. In this report we describe a simple and efficient method for obtaining pure human recombinant Ubc9 protein. The purified Ubc9 retained its native structure and was fully active in an in vitro sumoylation assay with the promyelocytic leukaemia (PML) peptide as a substrate. In order to better understand the physiology of Ubc9 protein we examined its levels in several rat tissues. Immunoblot analyses performed on tissue extracts revealed quantitative and qualitative differences in the expression pattern of Ubc9. The Ubc9 protein was present at a high level in spleen and lung. Moderate level of Ubc9 was detected in kidney and liver. Low amount of Ubc9 was observed in brain, whereas the 18 kDa band of Ubc9 was barely visible or absent in heart and skeletal muscle. In heart and muscle extracts the Ubc9 antibodies recognized a 38 kDa protein band. This band was not visible in extracts of other rat tissues. A comparison of the relative levels of Ubc9 mRNA and protein indicated that the overall expression level of Ubc9 was the highest in spleen and lung. In spleen, lung, kidney, brain, liver and heart there was a good correlation between the 18 kDa protein and Ubc9 mRNA levels. In skeletal muscle the Ubc9 mRNA level was unproportionally high comparing to the level of the 18 kDa protein. The presented data indicate that in the rat the expression of the Ubc9 protein appears to have some degree of tissue specificity.

PMID: 14739995 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Neurokinin 1 receptor and relative abundance of the short and long isoforms in the human brain.

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Substance P exerts its various biochemical effects mainly via interactions through neurokinin-1 receptors (NK1). Recently, the NK1 receptor has attracted considerable interest for its possible role in a variety of psychiatric disorders including depression and anxiety. However, little is known regarding the anatomical distribution of NK1 in the human central nervous system (CNS). Riboprobe in situ hybridization, quantitative PCR and in vitro autoradiography were performed. Highest NK1 mRNA levels were localized in the locus coeruleus and ventral striatum, while moderate hybridization signals were observed in the cerebral cortex (most abundant in the visual cortex), hippocampus and different amygdaloid nuclei. Very low levels of the NK1 mRNA were detected in the cerebellum and thalamus. In view of the existence of a long and short isoform of the NK1 receptor, it was of interest to assess whether there was a differential distribution of the two splice variants in the human CNS and peripheral tissues. A quantitative TaqMan PCR analysis showed that the long NK1 isoform was the most prevalent throughout the human brain, while in peripheral tissues the truncated form was the most represented. ³H-Substance P autoradiography revealed a good correlation between receptor binding sites and NK1 mRNA expression throughout the brain, with the highest levels of binding in the locus coeruleus. These results provide the anatomical evidence that the NK1 receptors have a strong association with neuronal systems relevant to mood regulation and stress in the human brain, but do not suggest a region-specific role of the two isoforms in the CNS.

PMID: 12752772 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Transcriptional activity of potent glucocorticoids: relevance of glucocorticoid receptor isoforms and drug metabolites.

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As compared to standard glucocorticoids (GC), prednicarbate (PC) is favorable in the treatment of eczema due to its high benefit/risk ratio. The remarkable anti-inflammatory effects of PC are in strong contrast to its reported low glucocorticoid receptor (GR) binding affinity. In transfected COS-7 cells we related the transcriptional potencies of PC, its metabolites and conventional GC to their receptor binding properties. Moreover, the expression pattern of the human GR isoform hGRalpha and its mutual dominant negative inhibitor hGRbeta in skin cells have been investigated as well as the influence of hGRbeta on receptor binding and transactivation. hGRalpha mRNA and protein was largely overexpressed in skin cells. hGRbeta showed no influence on hGRalpha binding and transactivation. Concentration response curves indicated the greater transactivation potency of betamethasone 17-valerate followed by dexamethasone and prednisolone 17-ethylcarbonate. Native PC appeared almost as potent as dexamethasone. With both a strong correlation was observed between transactivation and GR binding. Copyright 2003 S. Karger AG, Basel

PMID: 12677094 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Comment in:

- Blood. 2003 Aug 15;102(4):1550-1.

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Transcript profiling of human platelets using microarray and serial analysis of gene expression.

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Human platelets are anucleate blood cells that retain cytoplasmic mRNA and maintain functionally intact protein translational capabilities. We have adapted complementary techniques of microarray and serial analysis of gene expression (SAGE) for genetic profiling of highly purified human blood platelets. Microarray analysis using the Affymetrix HG-U95Av2 approximately 12 600-probe set maximally identified the expression of 2147 (range, 13%-17%) platelet-expressed transcripts, with approximately 22% collectively involved in metabolism and receptor/signaling, and an overrepresentation of genes with unassigned function (32%). In contrast, a modified SAGE protocol using the Type IIS restriction enzyme MmeI (generating 21-base pair [bp] or 22-bp tags) demonstrated that 89% of tags represented mitochondrial (mt) transcripts (enriched in 16S and 12S ribosomal RNAs), presumably related to persistent mt-transcription in the absence of nuclear-derived transcripts. The frequency of non-mt SAGE tags paralleled average difference values (relative expression) for the most "abundant" transcripts as determined by microarray analysis, establishing the concordance of both techniques for platelet profiling. Quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (PCR) confirmed the highest frequency of mt-derived transcripts, along with the mRNAs for neurogranin (NGN, a protein kinase C substrate) and the complement lysis inhibitor clusterin among the top 5 most abundant transcripts. For confirmatory characterization, immunoblots and flow cytometric analyses were performed, establishing abundant cell-surface expression of clusterin and intracellular expression of NGN. These observations demonstrate a strong correlation between high transcript abundance and protein expression, and they establish the validity of transcript analysis as a tool for identifying novel platelet proteins that may regulate normal and pathologic platelet (and/or megakaryocyte) functions.

PMID: 12433680 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Comment in:

- [Equine Vet J. 2002 Jul;34\(4\):326-7.](#)

Molecular characterisation of carbohydrate digestion and absorption in equine small intestine.

Dyer J, Fernandez-Castano Merediz E, Salmon KS, Proudman CJ, Edwards GB, Shirazi-Beechey SP.

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Dietary carbohydrates, when digested and absorbed in the small intestine of the horse, provide a substantial fraction of metabolisable energy. However, if levels in diets exceed the capacity of the equine small intestine to digest and absorb them, they reach the hindgut, cause alterations in microbial populations and the metabolite products and predispose the horse to gastrointestinal diseases. We set out to determine, at the molecular level, the mechanisms, properties and the site of expression of carbohydrate digestive and absorptive functions of the equine small intestinal brush-border membrane. We have demonstrated that the disaccharidases sucrase, lactase and maltase are expressed diversely along the length of the intestine and D-glucose is transported across the equine intestinal brush-border membrane by a high affinity, low capacity, Na⁺/glucose cotransporter type 1 isoform (SGLT1). The highest rate of transport is in duodenum > jejunum > ileum. We have cloned and sequenced the cDNA encoding equine SGLT1 and alignment with SGLT1 of other species indicates 85-89% homology at the nucleotide and 84-87% identity at the amino acid levels. We have shown that there is a good correlation between levels of functional SGLT1 protein and SGLT1 mRNA abundance along the length of the small intestine. This indicates that the major site of glucose absorption in horses maintained on conventional grass-based diets is in the proximal intestine, and the expression of equine intestinal SGLT1 along the proximal to distal axis of the intestine is regulated at the level of mRNA abundance. The data presented in this paper are the first to provide information on the capacity of the equine intestine to digest and absorb soluble carbohydrates and has implications for a better feed management, pharmaceutical intervention and for dietary supplementation in horses following intestinal resection.

PMID: 12117106 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Vascular endothelial growth factor enhances cardiac allograft arteriosclerosis.

Lemstrom KB, Krebs R, Nykanen AI, Tikkanen JM, Sihvola RK, Aaltola EM, Hayry PJ, Wood J, Alitalo K, Yla-Herttuala S, Koskinen PK.

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BACKGROUND: Cardiac allograft arteriosclerosis is a complex process of alloimmune response, chronic inflammation, and smooth muscle cell proliferation that includes cross talk between cytokines and growth factors. **METHODS AND RESULTS:** Our results in rat cardiac allografts established alloimmune response as an alternative stimulus capable of inducing vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) mRNA and protein expression in cardiomyocytes and graft-infiltrating mononuclear inflammatory cells, which suggests that these cells may function as a source of VEGF to the cells of coronary arteries. Linear regression analysis of these allografts with different stages of arteriosclerotic lesions revealed a strong correlation between intragraft VEGF protein expression and the development of intimal thickening, whereas blockade of signaling downstream of VEGF receptor significantly reduced arteriosclerotic lesions. In addition, in cholesterol-fed rabbits, intracoronary perfusion of cardiac allografts with a clinical-grade adenoviral vector that encoded mouse VEGF(164) enhanced the formation of arteriosclerotic lesions, possibly secondary to increased intragraft influx of macrophages and neovascularization in the intimal lesions. **CONCLUSIONS:** Our findings suggest a positive regulatory role between VEGF and coronary arteriosclerotic lesion formation in the allograft cytokine microenvironment.

PMID: 12034660 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

**Expression and distribution of laminin alpha1 and alpha2 chains in embryonic and adult mouse tissues: an immunochemical approach.****Sasaki T, Giltay R, Talts U, Timpl R, Talts JF.**

Max-Planck-Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, D-82152, Germany.

Protein levels, mRNA expression, and localization of laminin alpha1 and alpha2 chains in development and in adult mice were examined. Recombinant fragments were used to obtain high-titer-specific polyclonal antibodies for establishing quantitative radioimmuno-inhibition assays. This often demonstrated an abundance of alpha2 chain, but also distinct amounts of alpha1 chain for adult tissues. The highest amounts of alpha1 were found in placenta, kidney, testis, and liver and exceeded those of alpha2. All other tissue extracts showed a higher content of alpha2, which was particularly high in heart and muscle when compared to alpha1. Content of gamma1 chain, shared by most laminins, was also analyzed. This demonstrated gamma1 chain levels being equal to or moderately exceeding the sum of alpha1 and alpha2 chains, indicating that these isoforms represent the major known laminin isoforms in most adult mouse tissues so far examined. Moreover, we found good correlation between radioimmuno-inhibition data and mRNA levels of adult tissues as measured by quantitative real-time reverse transcriptase-PCR. Embryonic tissues were also analyzed by radioimmuno-inhibition assays. This demonstrated for day 11 embryos comparable amounts of alpha1 and gamma1 and a more than 25-fold lower content of alpha2. This content increased to about 10% of alpha1 in day 13 embryos. The day 18 embryo showed in heart, kidney, and liver, but not yet in brain and lung, alpha1/alpha2 chain ratios comparable to those in adult tissues. Immunostaining demonstrated alpha1 in Reichert's membrane (day 7.5), while alpha2 could not be detected before day 11.5. These data were compared with immunohistochemical localization results on several more embryonic and adult tissue sections. Our results regarding localization are consistent with those of earlier work with some notable exceptions. This was in part due to epitope masking for monoclonal antibodies commonly used in previous studies in esophagus, intestine, stomach, liver, kidney, and spleen.

PMID: 11969289 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Assessment of proliferative activity in colorectal carcinomas by quantitative reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

Duchrow M, Hasemeyer S, Broll R, Bruch HP, Windhovel U.

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The monoclonal antibody Ki-67 and the isospecific monoclonal antibody MIB-1 are routinely used in oncology to assess the proliferation index of tumor cells. A more objective and sensitive method is the determination of the of Ki-67 protein-specific mRNA by quantitative reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). In 25 resected colorectal adenocarcinomas of different stages and grades we determined between 0.2 and 4.4 amol (10(-18) mol) Ki-67 protein-specific mRNA per microgram total RNA (median = 0.88 amol). The corresponding Ki-67 indices (expressing the percentage of Ki-67/MIB-I positive tumor cells) ranged from 41 to 81% (median = 61%). We found a good correlation between Ki-67 index and mRNA expression ($r = 0.75$), a significant correlation between both data and tumor stage (primary tumor, regional nodes, metastasis [pTNM] staging classification) ($p < 0.001$), but not between both data and tumor grade. Both Ki-67 indices ($p = 0.05$) and mRNA levels ($p = 0.014$) correlated significantly to the patients' survival. These results demonstrate that the Ki-67 protein-specific quantitative RT-PCR is a useful method for the characterization of tumor cell proliferation.

PMID: 11486701 [PubMed -indexed for MEDLINE]



Modulation of glucagon receptor expression and response in transfected human embryonic kidney cells.

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The modulation of glucagon receptor (GR) expression and biological response was investigated in human embryonic kidney cell (HEK-293) clones permanently expressing the GR with different densities. The GR mRNA expression level in these clones was upregulated by cellular cAMP accumulation and presented a good correlation with both the protein expression level and the maximum number of glucagon binding sites. However, the determination of glucagon-induced cAMP accumulation in these cell lines revealed that the enhancement of receptor expression did not lead to a proportional increase in cAMP formation. Under these conditions, the maximum cAMP production induced by NaF and forskolin was not significantly different among selected clones, regardless of the receptor expression level. High receptor-expressing clones showed the greatest susceptibility for agonist-induced desensitization compared with clones with lower GR expression levels. The results of the present study suggest that the GR can recruit non-GR-specific desensitization mechanism(s). Furthermore, the partial inhibition or alteration of the overall cAMP synthesis pathway at the receptor level may be a necessary adaptive step for a cell in response to a massive increase in membrane receptor expression level.

PMID: 11546678 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Erratum in:

- Int J Cancer 2002 Feb 20;97(6):878.



Immunohistochemical analysis of NY-ESO-1 antigen expression in normal and malignant human tissues.

Jungbluth AA, Chen YT, Stockert E, Busam KJ, Kolb D, Iversen K, Coplan K, Williamson B, Altorki N, Old LJ.

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NY-ESO-1, a member of the CT (cancer/testis) family of antigens, is expressed in normal testis and in a range of human tumor types. Knowledge of NY-ESO-1 expression has depended on RT-PCR detection of mRNA and there is a need for detecting NY-ESO-1 at the protein level. In the present study, a method for the immunochemical detection of NY-ESO-1 in paraffin-embedded tissues has been developed and used to define the expression pattern of NY-ESO-1 in normal tissues and in a panel of human tumors. No normal tissue other than testis showed NY-ESO-1 reactivity, and expression in testis was restricted to germ cells particularly spermatogonia. In human tumors, the frequency of NY-ESO-1 antigen expression corresponds with past analysis of NY-ESO-1 mRNA expression e.g., 20-30% of lung cancers, bladder cancers and melanoma, and no expression in colon and renal cancer. Co-typing of NY-ESO-1 antigen and mRNA expression in a large panel of lung cancers showed a good correlation. There is great variability in NY-ESO-1 expression in individual tumors, ranging from an infrequent homogeneous pattern of staining to highly heterogeneous antigen expression. Copyright 2001 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

PMID: 11351307 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Expression of superoxide dismutases, catalase, and glutathione peroxidase in glioma cells.

Zhong W, Yan T, Lim R, Oberley LW.

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Four primary antioxidant enzymes were measured in both human and rat glioma cells. Both manganese-containing superoxide dismutase (MnSOD) and copper-zinc-containing superoxide dismutase (CuZnSOD) activities varied greatly among the different glioma cell lines. MnSOD was generally higher in human glioma cells than in rat glioma cells and relatively higher than in other tumor types. High levels of MnSOD in human glioma cells were due to the high levels of expression of MnSOD mRNA and protein. Heterogeneous expression of MnSOD was present in individual glioma cell lines and may be due to subpopulations or cells at different differentiation stages. Less difference in CuZnSOD, catalase, or glutathione peroxidase was found between human and rat glioma cells. The human glioma cell lines showed large differences in sensitivity to the glutathione modulating drugs 1,3-bis (2-chloroethyl)-1-nitrosourea (BCNU) and buthionine sulfoximine (BSO). A good correlation was found between sensitivity to BCNU and the activities of catalase in these cell lines. Only one cell line was sensitive to BSO and this line had low CuZnSOD activity.

PMID: 10641728 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

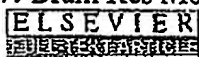
Protein abundancy and mRNA levels of the adipocyte-type fatty acid binding protein correlate in non-invasive and invasive bladder transitional cell carcinomas.

Gromova I, Gromov P, Wolf H, Celis JE.

Department of Medical Biochemistry and Danish Centre for Human Genome Research,
The University of Aarhus, Aarhus C, Denmark.

The adipocyte type fatty acid-binding protein (A-FABP) is a small molecular weight fatty acid-binding protein whose expression correlates both with the grade of atypia and the stage of bladder transitional cell carcinomas (TCCs). To determine if the protein abundancy correlates with the mRNA levels in non-invasive and invasive lesions, we have analysed fresh TCCs (grade II, Ta; grade III, T2-4) by two-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (2D-PAGE) and measured the mRNA levels using the reverse transcription linked polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Overall, the results showed a good correlation between protein abundancy and mRNA levels, indicating that the lack of expression of the protein observed in some lesions reflects low levels of transcription of the A-FABP gene rather than translational regulation. In addition, our studies showed that the loss of A-FABP protein observed in some tumors is not compensated by an increase in the skin fatty acid-binding protein PA-FABP, as is the case in the A-FABP knockout mice.

PMID: 9664136 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



[3H]MK-801 binding and the mRNA for the NMDAR1 subunit of the NMDA receptor are differentially distributed in human and rat forebrain.

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The distributions of [3H]MK-801 binding and the NMDA NR1 subunit mRNA were studied using receptor autoradiography and in-situ hybridization in rat and human brain whole-hemisphere coronal sections. Receptor protein detected by radioligand autoradiography and the mRNA for the key subunit of the receptor presented similar distributions in the forebrain, with a few areas showing an imbalance between the levels of mRNA and receptor protein. Human frontal cortex showed a relative abundance of NMDAR1 mRNA as compared to [3H]MK-801 binding. The same area in rat brain did not show any difference in the two distributions. In comparison, the rat claustrum presented a relative excess of NMDAR1 mRNA which was not detected in human sections. Human caudate nucleus exhibited relatively high levels of [3H]MK-801 binding that were unmatched in rat caudate. The hippocampi of either species presented similar levels of [3H]MK-801 binding and NMDAR1 mRNA, but when the two signals were measured in specific subfields of the hippocampal formation, the differential distribution of the two signals reflected the anatomy of hippocampal connections assuming a preferential dendritic distribution for MK-801 binding. Interestingly, rat and human hippocampi also showed some important species-dependent difference in the relative distribution of the receptor protein and mRNA. The data presented show an overall good correlation between the mRNA for the key subunit of the NMDA receptor and the functional receptor detected with radioligand-binding and highlight the presence of local differences in their ratio. This may reflect different splicing of the mRNA for the NMDAR1 subunit in specific brain areas of rat and human. The species-dependent differences in the relative distribution of the mRNA for the key subunit of the NMDA receptor and that of a marker of functional receptors also highlights important differences in the NMDA function in rat and human brain.

PMID: 9526033 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Quantitative determinations of the steady state transcript levels of hexokinase isozymes and glucose transporter isoforms in normal rat tissues and the malignant tumor cell line AH130.

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The steady state transcript levels of the four hexokinase (HK) isozymes and four glucose transporter (GLUT) isoforms were determined quantitatively by Northern analysis of RNA samples from rat tissues using synthetic fragments of the RNAs encoding the HK isozymes and GLUT isoforms. Results showed that the levels of HK isozyme transcripts were low in rat tissues, the level of that most highly expressed, the type I isozyme (HKI), in the brain being 0.025% of the total poly(A)+ RNA. A good correlation was found between the reported HK activities and the total amounts of transcripts encoding all HK isozymes in various tissues, showing that the HK activities in tissues can be estimated from the total amount of transcripts encoding HK isozymes. The proposed associated expressions of HK isozymes and GLUT isoforms in particular tissues were confirmed at their transcript levels. The steady state transcript levels of type II HK and the type 1 GLUT isoform in the malignant tumor cell line AH130 were also determined quantitatively.

PMID: 9459591 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Expression of the multidrug resistance-associated protein (MRP) mRNA and protein in normal peripheral blood and bone marrow haemopoietic cells.

Legrand O, Perrot JY, Tang R, Simonin G, Gurbuxani S, Zittoun R, Marie JP.

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We studied the expression of multidrug resistance-associated protein (MRP) in normal haemopoietic cells from peripheral blood and bone marrow. The MRP mRNA levels were estimated by RT/PCR and in situ hybridization (ISH) assay, and the protein levels by flow cytometry. 21 samples of peripheral blood and 21 samples of bone marrow (11 normal bone marrow donors, 10 patients in complete remission after chemotherapy for large cell lymphoma or acute myeloid leukaemia) were analysed. In peripheral blood the mean MRP mRNA level in CD3+ cells was statistically higher than in the other cells (3-fold by the methods used). The levels of MRP in CD3+ varied from one individual to another (4.5-34.8 units by RT/PCR and 5-23 grains/cell by ISH); however, this was proportional to the variation in all the cell lineages of same individual ($r = 0.84$). In bone marrow the mean MRP levels of the various cell lineages (including CD34+) were similar to the basal level in HL60 cells. Individual expression levels were again variable; however, there was no difference between untreated normal bone marrow and post chemotherapy normal bone marrow. MRP protein expression was determined by flow cytometry with the monoclonal antibody MRPM6. The CD4+ lymphocytes exhibited a higher MRP protein expression than the other cell lineages, including CD8+ cells. There was a good correlation between the three methods used (RT/PCR and ISH, $P = 0.0001$, $r = 0.87$; RT/PCR and flow cytometry, $P = 0.0001$, $r = 0.85$; ISH and flow cytometry, $P = 0.002$, $r = 0.67$).

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Rat kidney glutamyl aminopeptidase (aminopeptidase A): molecular identity and cellular localization.

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Glutamyl aminopeptidase [aminopeptidase A (EAP), EC 3.4.11.7] is an ectoenzyme that selectively hydrolyzes acidic amino acid residues from the amino terminus of oligopeptides. EAP activity is highest within the kidney and small intestine. The murine pre-B cell BP-1/6C3 and the human kidney-glycoprotein gp160 differentiation antigens have been reported to have biochemical properties indistinguishable from EAP. It is not known, however, if rat kidney EAP is a homologue of these antigens or molecularly distinct. Using the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction method with oligonucleotide primers based on the BP-1/6C3 nucleotide sequence, we isolated a 450-bp partial cDNA from rat kidney poly(A)+ RNA. The partial cDNA encoded a predicted protein that was 92% and 86% identical to the murine BP-1/6C3 and human gp160 antigens, respectively; the amino acid sequence within the zinc-binding domain was completely conserved. Purification of EAP from rat kidney and microsequence analysis of a tryptic digest peptide fragment (18-mer) indicated that the fragment was highly similar to a region within the BP-1/6C3 and gp160 proteins. Northern blot hybridization and immunoblot analyses were also consistent with labeling of products the same size as reported for the BP-1/6C3 and gp160 antigens. There was a good correlation between the cellular distribution of EAP mRNA and EAP immunoreactivity, with proximal tubules and glomerular mesangial cells having the highest densities. These results indicate that rat kidney EAP is a species homologue of the murine BP-1/6C3 and human gp160 antigens. Furthermore, on the basis of its cellular localization, rat kidney EAP is likely to be involved in degradation of oligopeptides within the glomerulus and the glomerular filtrate. Since cells that express EAP also express receptors for angiotensin II, an intrarenal vasoactive hormone that is a substrate for EAP, these results further suggest that EAP may play a role in modulating the activity of intrarenal angiotensin II.

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Differential expression of the short and long forms of the gamma 2 subunit of the GABAA/benzodiazepine receptors.

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The distribution of the mRNAs encoding the gamma 2S and gamma 2L subunits of the GABAA receptor in the rat brain has been revealed by in situ hybridization, northern blot and dot blot analysis using specific antisense oligonucleotides. In addition, the quantitative distribution of the gamma 2S and gamma 2L subunit peptides participating in the fully assembled GABAA receptors/benzodiazepine receptors has been mapped by immunoprecipitation with specific anti-gamma 2S and anti-gamma 2L antibodies. Several neuronal types and brain regions are enriched in gamma 2L such as neurons of the layer II of striate cortex and cerebellar Purkinje cells as well as the inferior colliculus, superior colliculus, deep cerebellar nuclei, medulla and pons. Other neuronal types and regions are enriched in gamma 2S such as the mitral cells of the olfactory bulb, pyramidal neurons of the pyriform cortex, layer VI of the neocortex, granule cells of the dentate gyrus and pyramidal cells of the hippocampus. Other cortical areas and cerebellar granule cells express both gamma 2S and gamma 2L in comparable amounts. There is a good correlation between the relative expression of gamma 2S and gamma 2L mRNAs and the relative presence of these protein subunits in fully assembled and mature receptors in the studied brain regions. The differential distribution of gamma 2S and gamma 2L might result in differential ethanol sensitivity of the neurons expressing these GABAA receptor subunits.

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Cell proliferation in human soft tissue tumors correlates with platelet-derived growth factor B chain expression: an immunohistochemical and in situ hybridization study.

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The authors tested the hypothesis that the B chain of the platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), a known connective tissue mitogen and growth factor, could be expressed by human soft tissue tumors, and that its expression could play a role in the control of cell proliferation in these tumors. Using a set of 56 soft tissue tumors, including benign tumors and all three grades of sarcomas, PDGF-B chain protein was localized using immunohistochemistry and PDGF-B mRNA was localized using in situ hybridization. The hypothesis that PDGF-B expression was related to cell proliferation was tested by simultaneously demonstrating the expression of the proliferating cell nuclear antigen in sequential tissue sections of the same tumors. Sixty and 82% of tumors had demonstrable PDGF-B mRNA and protein, respectively, with a strong correlation between their degrees of expression ($P = 0.0001$). Among the sarcomas, a strong correlation between PDGF-B expression and increasing malignant tumor grade ($P = 0.006$), and between PDGF-B expression and increasing proliferating cell nuclear antigen index ($P = 0.01$) was found. All tumors were also demonstrated to express the beta receptor of PDGF via immunohistochemistry. These studies suggest that PDGF-B expression may be an important mediator of cell proliferation control, via an autocrine mechanism, in human soft tissue tumors and may correlate with clinical outcome in the sarcomas.

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Expression of cytokines and growth factors in human glomerulonephritides.

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Numerous experimental studies point to the potential role of cytokines and growth factors in the pathogenesis of renal disease. However, from the various autocrine and paracrine mediators identified in vitro and in animal models, so far only a few have been demonstrated in selected human glomerulopathies. We examined two types of glomerulonephritis (GN): extracapillary GN with anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibodies (ANCA), an example of an acute form of GN, and mesangial IgA GN, usually a chronic form of GN, with immunocytochemistry, in situ hybridization and the polymerase chain reaction. Normal renal tissue from tumour nephrectomies served as a control. In ANCA-positive GN with active renal lesions (crescents, glomerular and vascular necrosis), infiltrating mononuclear cells in glomeruli and in the interstitium expressed interleukin (IL)-1 beta, tumour necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha, IL-2, interferon (IFN)-gamma, platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) and transforming growth factor (TGF)-beta. Cytokine expression was also observed in activated resident cells, including endothelial cells, capsular epithelial cells, smooth muscle cells of vessel walls, fibroblasts and some tubular epithelial cells. In addition, we noted an increase in the cytokine and growth factor receptors TNF-R, IL-1R type II, IL-2R, IFN-gamma R and PDGF beta-R. In contrast, in mesangial IgA-GN, IL-1 beta, TNF-alpha, IFN-gamma and IL-2 were usually absent in glomeruli. Mesangial expansion in this disorder was accompanied by an increased expression of PDGF, PDGF beta-R, TGF-beta and IL-6 in mesangial areas. In both conditions a good correlation was observed between cytokine expression at the mRNA (in situ hybridization) and protein level (immunocytochemistry). (ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)

Publication Types:

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- Review, Tutorial

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Comment in:

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T-cell receptor V beta-family usage in primary cutaneous and primary nodal T-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

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To evaluate whether the expression of T-cell receptor (TCR) V beta families in eight cases of malignant T-cell lymphomas took place in a preferential manner, we analyzed four cases of mycosis fungoides (MF), the most common form of primary cutaneous T-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL), and four cases of primary nodal T-cell NHL. The usage of V beta families in T-cell populations was investigated on mRNA that was transcribed to cDNA using a C beta primer and reverse transcriptase. Subsequently, the specific usage of the families was analyzed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using combinations of the selected C beta-oligonucleotide primer and one of the family-specific V beta primers. Peripheral blood lymphocytes from four healthy volunteers and 1 "reactive" lymph node served as a control and expressed all 20 V beta families tested for. In T-cell lines, with restricted V beta expression, and in three patients with advanced MF, only one or two V beta families were expressed at the mRNA level. In an early MF lesion this monoclonal expression was absent: several V beta families were expressed with a weak intensity. This may indicate either a polyclonal origin of MF, or that too few monoclonal neoplastic cells were present in the tissue specimen. In the four nodal T-cell NHL, only one family could be clearly distinguished, whereas some of the other V beta families showed only a weak expression. These latter families represent the reactive T-cell component in the nodal T-cell NHL. Both in nodal T-cell NHL and in MF there was no preferential expression of a particular V beta family. There was a good correlation between PCR data and the expression of V beta-family protein products observed by immunohistochemistry on tissue sections of the T-cell lymphomas. All T-cell lines, three cases of MF, and three cases of nodal T-cell NHL showed a rearrangement of the TCR beta chain on DNA level.

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Expression of the pS2 gene in breast tissues assessed by pS2-mRNA analysis and pS2-protein radioimmunoassay.

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The expression of the pS2 gene in breast tissues was assessed by measuring pS2-protein using a radioimmunoassay, and by determining pS2-mRNA using Northern blotting. There was a good correlation between the two measurements, indicating that expression of the pS2 gene in breast tissues may be assessed by either method. Since radioimmunoassay is technically easier and more efficient than Northern blotting, radioimmunoassay will be the method of choice in routine applications.

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